

Comparative Deserts

Conference Program

MAY 20-21 2021

This conference is funded by a grant from the Global Initiative Fund

THURSDAY, MAY 20

9:30-9:55

Introductory Remarks

Brahim El Guabli

COLONIAL AND DE-COLONIAL SAHARA

Chair: *Michele Monserrati* | mm43@williams.edu

10:00-12:00

The Saharan Passage: Slavery, Sugar, and Sa`di Morocco's Invasion of the Songhai Empire (1591)

Samia Errazzouki, University of California, Davis

A Disdain for Deserts: The Sahara Sea Project and Climatic Modification in North Africa, 85-1864

Tyson Luneau, University of Albany

The Tuareg Nomad Warrior: Representations of Male Bodies in the Sahara Desert in Imperial European Imaginations

Tachfine Baida, Sciences Po Bordeaux

Sahara as Revolutionary Subject: Tracing a Constellation of Liberation Movements across Northwest Africa in 1972

Mark Drury, Princeton University

DESERTS IN PRISON LITERATURE

Chair: *Francisco Robles* | frobles1@nd.edu

10:00-12:00

Meant For Erasing: Drawings from the Vichy Camps of Gurs and Djelfa
Aomar Boum, University of California, Los Angeles

Connecting No-Places: The Dust of Desert Prisons
Anne-Marie McManus, Forum Transregionale Studien

From Sea to Waterless Sea: Archipelagic Thought and Reorientation in *When the Emperor Was Divine*
Summer Weaver, Brigham Young University

The Deir ez-Zor Desert as a Site for Trauma Transmission Among Syrian Armenians
Hasmik Tovmasyan, University of Calgary

LITERARY RENDITIONS OF THE SAHARA

Chair: *Jill Jarvis* | jill.jarvis@yale.edu

1:00-3:00

Extraction as Desertification in Exterranean Morocco
David Fieni, SUNY Oneonta

Desert memory in Mokeddem's Fiction: The Necessary Nomadism of Words
Amina Zarzi, University of Birmingham

Mouloud Mammeri's « Ténéré atavique », the Desert as an Experience of Transgressing Geographical and Ontological Borders
Ninon Vessie, Emory University

Le Plateau du Tademaït's Epistemic Phenomena
Kevin Hickey, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

FRIDAY, MAY 21

DESERT ARCHITECTURE/INFRASTRUCTURE

Chair: *Michelle Apotsos* | ma11@williams.edu

10:00-12:00

The Sahara as Infrastructure
Zakia Salime, Rutgers University

Between Rivers and Mountains: Strata of Movement in the Deserts of North America
Andrea Garcés Farfán, Freie Universität Berlin

A Virtual Oasis for Desert Infrastructure: Afghanistan's Internet Age
Hannah Ahblad, University of San Francisco

Importing the Desert into the Urban: The Architectural Narrative of National Museum of Qatar
Ali A. Alraouf, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar

DESERTS AND OCEANS

Chair: Benjamin Twagira | bt7@williams.edu

10:00-12:00

Harmattan Wind as Decolonial Morphology

May Joseph, *Pratt Institute*

Dissolving into the Sea: Cinematic Migrants and the Problem of Agency

Nataša Kovačević, *Eastern Michigan University*

Border Forensics

Charles Heller, *Graduate Institute, Geneva*

Lorenzo Pezzani, *Goldsmiths University*

Water Necropolitics

Edwige Tamalet Talbayev, *Tulane University*

FROM THE RIVER TO THE DESERT

Chair: Gail Newman | gnewman@williams.edu

1:00-3:00

Desert Edges: Aswan's Twentieth-Century Necropolis

Nancy Y. Reynolds, *Washington University*

A Desert of Milk & Honey: Conceptualizing the Naqab in the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine

Calvin Harrison, *University of Birmingham*

Oceanic Sahara: Extreme Settler Colonial State-Making in the Canary Islands

Eda Pepi, *Yale University*

Mobilizing the Desert Frontier in Contemporary Egypt: Metabolic Flows along the Cairo-Red Sea Highway

Tamer Elshayal, *Harvard University*

Vanessa Lehmann, *Goldsmiths, University of London*

THE DESERT IN ARTISTIC AND MULTIMEDIA PRACTICES

Chair: Amal Egeiq | ae8@williams.edu

1:00-3:00

Making Visible-the Desert as the Green Screen

Shuruq Harb, *Artist*

Odette du Puigaudeau and Marion Senones: Gender bending and Colonial Conquest

Paraska, *University of Pennsylvania*

Trans-Saharan Blues in Morocco

Jamie Fico, *Syracuse University*

Flattened--How I nearly died on the Columbian Plateau

Eric LoPresti, *Painter*

Resistance Sahara

Sidal Erguder, *Filmmaker*

3:30-5:00

Concluding Remarks from Panel Chairs/Discussion between Panelists

Moderated by Kashia Pieprzak | kpieprza@williams.edu